

Humorous Department.

On Instalment Plan.—They were experts in many things, but chiefly in the art of bragging. At the moment they were discussing their own wonderful triumphs as vocalists.

"Why," said the American, looking at his companion from the smoke rings of his cigar, "the first time I sang in public the audience literally showered me with bouquets, flowers of every sort, size and description. Bless you, there were enough of them to fill a flower shop!"

"Faith, an' I can beat that!" cried the Irishman. "The first time I sang was at an open air concert, and, begorra, the audience were that delighted they presented me a house."

"What!" exclaimed the American. "Presented you a house! You must be off your head, man!"

"Not a bit of it," replied Pat. "I tell you, they gave me a house. True, he added in a whisper, "they gave me a brick at a time!"

A Poignant Anecdote.—"The great fault of American servants is familiarity. To be familiar to be inefficient as a pessimistic doctor."

The speaker, Mrs. Boardman Harrison, is perhaps the most brilliant conversationalist in New York—a fact which renders more poignant this anecdote.

"I had a cook," she continued, "whom I tried to break of her over-familiarity. What was the result? This cook, discussing me in the servant's hall, said:

"I don't say she's a bad mistress, but she's a woman with one idea. She can't talk of a single thing but eating."

—With a great sense of awe and importance the young couple stood in front of the parson, the new baby comfortably slumbering in its mother's arms.

Evidently with an idea of improving the occasion, the new curate saw fit to launch into a gentle homily on the child's future upbringing.

"Who knows?" he finished up. "This child may one day become a clergyman like myself, or a brave soldier, or a daring sea captain. It is even possible that he may one day become an illustrious statesman."

The little mother's eyes had gradually grown rounder and rounder.

"What name did you say?" said the parson.

In a timid whisper came the apologetic reply:

"Jemima Ann, sir!"

Wasted Sweetness.—"Lady," said the Chicago heeler, "here a box of candy to take home to de kids."

"Sir," said the lady voter, "candy is deficient in proteids, contains an excess of albuminoids and its use by the adolescent is provocative of many of the ailments which we, as new members of the electorate, are trying to eradicate. Further more, your tender of this package is in violation of section 3, 11, 44 of the criminal code, which deals with attempted bribery, and which carries a heavy penalty."

"To which the heeler could only reply:

"Well, wot Tell wot Tell?"

Juvenile Frankness.—A clergyman visiting a school near Windsor, and trying to illustrate the meaning of conscience, asked a class of boys:

"Supposing one of you stole a piece of sugar and put it in your mouth, and some one came in—what would happen?"

"I'd get a thrashing," piped a small voice.

"Yes, but your face would become red, wouldn't it? What would make it do that?"

"Trying to swallow the sugar quick, sir."

Conjugal Felicity.—A teacher in a Liverpool school was trying to find from a tiny child the name of his father, says the Liverpool Post. He seemed quite unable to think of it, so he helped him asked:

"What do you call him?"

"I call him father," was the reply.

"Well, what does your mother call him?"

The response was eloquent of the manners of the neighborhood: "She doesn't call him anything—she likes him."

Succinct.—Representative Simeon D. Fess of Ohio, believes in looking for the brightest side of life; he is "strong" for optimism. His distinction between an optimist and a pessimist is apparent in the following definition which he sometimes gives:

"A pessimist," says Representative Fess, "asks 'Is there any milk in that pitcher?' But an optimist says, 'Pass the cream.'"

Softly.—"He remarked that men are but clay."

"Bright."

"And she asked him if that applied to her."

"And then?"

"He replied that it applied to all. And now his name is mud."

"She threw cold water on him, eh?"

"—Houston Post."

A Railroad engineer was boasting about the speed of his engine.

"Why," he said, "once when I had a new fireman with me on run 32 he asked me in a surprised way if that wasn't a rather long white fence beside the line."

"White fence?" says I, with a roar of laughter. "That's no white fence. That's milestones."

"Who can make a sentence and use the word 'income' correctly?" asked the teacher of the second grade.

"You may tell us, Johnny," indicating a little boy whose hand was waving violently.

"The kitchen door was left open and in came a rat," said the triumphant response.—Harper's Magazine.

Fair Words or Nothing.—"George," said the wife to her generally unappreciative husband, "how do you like my new hat?"

"Well, my dear," said George with great candor, "to tell you the truth—"

"Stop right there, George! If you're going to talk that way about it I don't want to know."

Puzzled.—Husband—I see that a German has invented a clock that tells the day of the month by sounding the number.

Wife—I don't see how it can tell the 10th, 20th and 30th of the month. It can strike the one, two and three all right, but how can it sound the cipher?

Miscellaneous Reading.

EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

Problems Given Applicants for Teachers' Certificates Last Week.

The questions used last Friday, in the examination of applicants to teach in the public schools, contemplated a pretty thorough equipment on the part of the would-be teachers, and will be of interest to the public. With exception of the algebra questions, which we are unable to reproduce because the lintotype is not equipped with the necessary signs, the questions are as follows:

Arithmetic.

1. A tank 6 feet long, 23 feet wide and 22 feet deep, inside measure, contains 3000 gallons of water. How much more water will it hold if the bottom is lined with sheet lead weighing 31 pounds per square foot. Find the cost of the lead at 6 cents per pound.

2. Find the cost of draining a meadow by laying 3,960 feet of tile at \$10 per thousand feet, and digging and filling the 3,960-foot ditch at 33 1/3 cents per rod.

3. If one gallon of paint covers 650 square feet, how much is required for two coats on one side of a tight board fence 8 feet 3 inches by 80 feet.

4. How much does it cost to construct 44 miles of macadam road 14 feet wide at 50 cents per square yard?

5. If apples are bought at 60 cents per bushel and sold by the quart to gain 33 1/3 per cent, find the selling price per quart.

6. A farmer, by feeding his cows \$2.50 worth of meal per day more than he had been feeding them, increased the per cent of butter fat from 31 to 34 per cent, and increased the yield of milk from 2,000 pounds to 2,200 pounds. How much did he gain per day by this experiment, if he was paid 25 cents per pound for butter fat?

7. A boat contains 8,000 bushels of corn worth 42 cents per bushel. The corn is insured for 7-8 of its value at 85 cents per \$100. What will be the owner's net loss if the cargo is destroyed?

8. A dealer purchased coal at \$5.40 per ton cash on April 1st. He sold it seven months later. If money was worth 5 1/2 per cent, what was the real cost of the coal to him at the time of sale?

English Grammar.

1. (a) Discuss the difference between language and grammar as school subjects; (b) State the relative importance of each.

2. Write sentences illustrating the use of lie and lay, sit and set, may and can, shall and will; (b) Change the first four sentences to the past tense.

3. (a) Into what classes are sentences divided with respect to form and meaning? (b) Give an example of each.

4. Name and illustrate (a) Three kinds of nouns; (b) Three kinds of pronouns; (c) Two kinds of verbs.

5. Analyze: You marble minstrel's voiceless stone in deathless song shall tell When many a vanished age hath flown, The story how ye fell.

6. Parse the italicized words in the above stanza.

7. Write a letter to your County Superintendent of Education applying for a position to teach in one of his schools.

Pedagogy.

1. Give five illustrations of how the instinct of rivalry may be employed to advantage.

2. Which incentives do you think more powerful; those involving fear of unpleasant consequences or those involving hope of reward? Give reasons for your opinion.

3. State some dangers of overemphasizing the play element in education.

4. Name five activities on the part of pupils that you would have the pupils acquire as habits as early as possible.

5. Do you believe in corporal punishment? Give full reasons for your answer.

6. What procedure would you use in dealing with a boy eleven years old who had told you a lie?

Geography.

1. Name and describe the three soil belts of South Carolina and show their effect on industry.

2. What states border on Mexico? Name the chief industries of each of these states.

3. What is the direction and approximate distance of Panama from (a) Charleston; (b) Valparaiso; (c) Belfast; (d) Cape Town.

4. Locate (a) Ulster; (b) Juarez; (c) Naples; (d) Guam; (e) Hampton Roads.

5. What causes produce the usual spring freshet in the Mississippi river?

6. Draw a map of South Carolina, locating counties, cities and rivers.

Physiology.

1. (a) What is exercise? (b) Why should we take exercise? (c) Give the effects of too little exercise.

2. (a) What is the purpose of cooking in food? (b) What guides have we as to what we should eat? (c) Give a general rule as to when we should eat.

3. Name two classes of muscles and give an example of each.

4. (a) How would you tell whether the flow of blood from a wound is from the arteries or the veins? (b) How would you check the flow of blood in either case?

5. Discuss the danger to health caused by flies.

6. Describe the essential parts of the nervous system.

History.

1. Give a brief account of the war with Mexico, stating its date, cause, results.

2. Explain the Monroe Doctrine, giving origin, date, and its present bearing upon the relations of the United States to other American nations and to the nations of the eastern hemisphere.

3. Give an adequate account of any eight of the following: (a) St. Augustine; (b) De Soto; (c) Jean Ribault; (d) Navarre; (e) Thomas Jefferson; (f) Fifteenth Amendment; (g) Kansas-Nebraska Bill; (h) Andrew Jackson; (i) Horatio Nelson; (j) Hartford Convention; (k) Puritans; (l) Federalists; (m) Francis Marion; (n) Protective Tariff, and Tariff for Revenue.

Civics and Current Events.

1. What are qualifications for holding a county office in this state?

2. Name three duties and three powers of school district trustees.

3. How was the assessment of real estate made last February?

4. Name the voters' commission from your district; also the solicitor and the judge of your circuit.

5. State the basis and benefits of local taxation for your school district.

6. What is the veto power and who can exercise it?

7. (a) Where must all bills to raise revenue originate? (b) Tell what steps are necessary in the passage of an act by the legislature.

8. What is the Panama canal, and what great international question is agitating congress and the country generally in regard thereto?

Agriculture.

1. What are the advantages of cover crops?

2. What plants are used as cover crops?

3. Give brief descriptions of several types of cover crops, showing how they are used.

4. Name three kinds of injurious insects and describe the method of destroying each of them.

5. Why do farmers in South Carolina have to inoculate vetch and alfalfa seed?

6. Draw weeds and tell how to rid the farm of weeds.

Feminine Fear of Mice.

There is excuse for asking how much of sincerity there is in the fear of mice

to which so many women give such vehement expression. A night telephone operator over in New Jersey saw one of the little creatures steal out on the door of the room in which she was keeping her lonely vigil, and though his attack was not on her, but on the crumbs of her luncheon, she promptly fainted. On recovery she rushed into a closet, where she was imprisoned until morning by the spring catch on the hastily slammed door. Meanwhile all efforts to call "central" were vain, and the snow-storm received many undeserved oburgations.

Yet this young woman, like all others knows that mice are perfectly harmless—that they never did hurt anybody and never will.

The wicked suggestion has been made that feminine outcries on the appearance of mice are a mere fashion of the moment, but it is not originating in nothing better than a desire to show an interesting sensitiveness and timidity and to give rescuing man a chance to show his superiority. There must be something more to it than that, however, for not a few women, even when quite alone, as this one was, manifest almost convincing indication of this fear, perhaps not the less real because so unnecessary.

Apparently the fear is instinctive, but nothing in ancestral history explains the instinct since in the line of mothers running back through the troglodytes to merely anthropoid forebears, never a one was devoured by a mouse, and not more than half a dozen in all can have been bitten by one. And instincts are not so easily made.—New York Times.

THE TRADE DOLLAR

Story of a Coin That Proved a Complete Failure.

The "trade dollar," which was commended to the public by the government in 1876 or 40 years ago, is now no longer current, and is, of course, an unfamiliar sight to the present generation. Its intrinsic value is only about 45 cents, although coin collectors will sometimes pay 85 cents for a specimen.

Trade dollars were authorized by congress in 1873, for the purpose of stimulating trade with the Orient. For many years the Mexican silver dollar has been a highly valued coin in nearly all far eastern countries. Hundreds of millions of them are shipped to China, Japan, the Philippines, and other lands in that part of the world, to pay for the products exported there to Europe and the United States. Congress thought that a coin of the same weight and size as the Mexican dollar, with the imprint of the United States, could be used with advantage.

During the five years beginning with 1873, the United States mint produced nearly 36,000,000 of these dollars. Most of them were exported, but enough of them remained in our own country to lead to some confusion by reason of their similarity to the standard silver dollar. In 1887 congress provided that for six months thereafter all trade dollars presented at the treasury should be exchanged for standard silver dollars.

After that time trade dollars were to be worth only their metal value. Nearly 8,000,000 were redeemed, and during this period for redemption came to an end, probably less than 1 per cent of the number that had been coined remained in this country.

The trade dollars show on one side a sitting figure of the Goddess of Liberty, and on the other an eagle of a different design from that on the standard dollar. The inscription is: "United States of America, Trade Dollar, 420 grains, 900 fine." The standard silver dollar weighs 412 grains. The weight of the Mexican dollar is 417.4 grains, but it is 90.2 per cent pure silver, so that although it weighs less, its metal value is about the same as that of the old trade dollar.—Youth's Companion.

U. S. GREATEST OIL PRODUCER

California's Output Alone Was 100,000,000 Barrels Last Year.

Once more the twelve months' progress may be reviewed in comparative detail without referring more than casually to fields other than those which have claimed the principal attention for several years past, says the London Times.

The easily maintains its pre-eminent position as a producer. The production of approximately 30,000,000 metric tons represents 62 per cent of the world's output. The increase during the past year has been of very moderate dimensions. California, which otherwise is most favorably situated to contribute to the increase, is hampered by the difficulty of reaching outside markets. Impatiently it is awaiting the opening of the Panama canal to pour its accumulated stocks of 50,000,000 barrels and its immense reserves which are still underground into eastern markets but already the highest authorities are foreshadowing the time when the stream of oil through the pipe lines will be reversed to meet the requirements of the Pacific coast.

Last year's California output is estimated at nearly 100,000,000 barrels, an increase of 10 per cent. The importance attached to this field may be gauged from the anxiety of the Royal Dutch-Shell Transport group to obtain a footing where the Standard Oil company has hitherto reigned supreme. Other additions to the output of the United States are expected from the midcontinental fields of Oklahoma and Kansas, only the fringes of which have as yet been tapped. Indeed, every single producing district on the continent may be said to be increasing its output. Feverish activity has prevailed in the high-grade regions east of the Mississippi, but it is extremely doubtful if the output in the eastern district can be increased more than temporarily.

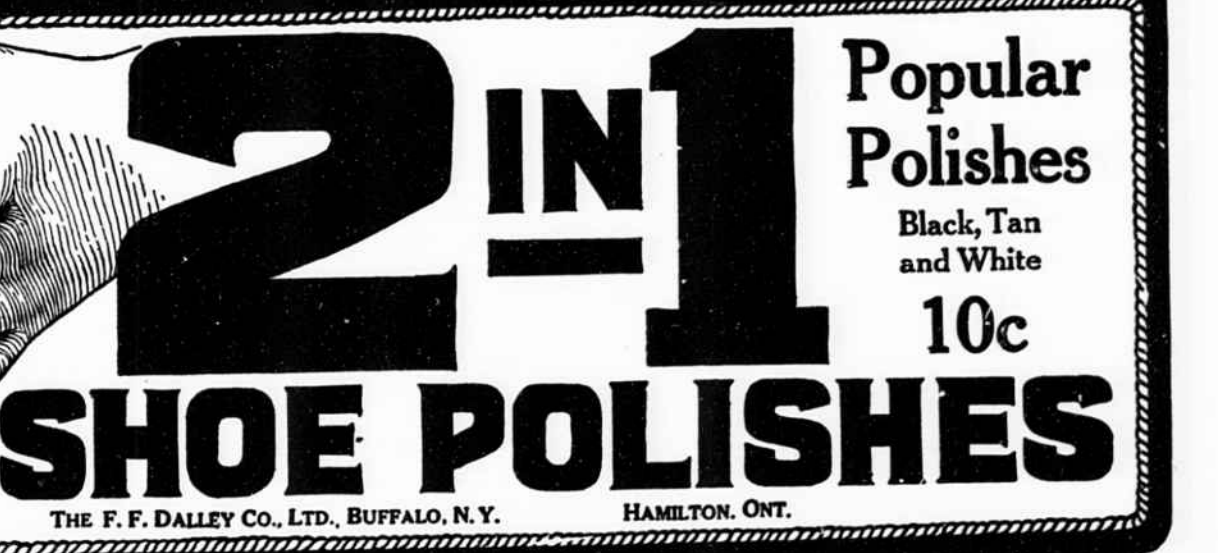
Birds That Fight Eagles.—In Foulia, one of the Shetland islands, the natives make a business of rearing skau gulls in order to rid the island of the eagles that congregate there and commit many depredations. The magnificent red sandstone cliffs that skirt the north-western coast became a favorite haunt of the eagles, and in this inaccessible spot they increased so rapidly that they became a terror to the farmers and fishermen who dwell on this isolated spot. The skau gulls are also strong and fierce and the inveterate foes of the eagle. In battle the gulls are nearly always victorious, and so the inhabitants of Foulia hit upon the novel plan of feeding and caring addidly to their feathered enemies, are very peaceful and docile when brought in contact with man.

Recognized.—Fake medium: "Hear that knocking? That is your departed friend."

James: "That's Bill, all right. He always was a knocker."



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